Outcome of the meeting on Indus Water Commission

1778. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to State:

(a) whether the permanent Indus Water Commission had met in Islamabad in the first week of February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether it is a tribute to the 1960 Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan;

(c) whether the meeting follows repeated Pakistani threats to refer the project for third party arbitration as provided for in the treaty;

(d) whether the project is of particular significance for Jammu and Kashmir in the context of much needed power to the State; and

(e) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The 88th meeting of Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) was held at Islamabad from 4th to 6th February, 2003.

(b) The Indus Water Treaty 1960 provides for such meetings to be held on the request of either Commissioner for Indus Water.

(c) The meeting was held on the request of the Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Water to discuss the Baglihar Hydroelectric (H.E.) Plant on the river Chenab.

(d) The Baglihar H.E. Project is one of the important ongoing projects of Jammu and Kashmir in the context of much needed power to the State.

(e) The Baglihar H.E. Plant at an estimated cost of about Rs. 3,500 crore, envisages a 144.5 m.high and 317 m. long concrete gravity dam for generation of 450 MW power.

Water Conservation Month

†1779. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has suggested to observe July as "Water Conservation month" for creating awareness

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.